

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT TITLE : CLAUDE

PERIOD COVERED : APRIL - JUNE 1990

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KEYWORDS : claude, boz, capacity, primary, conditioning,
dcc

OBJECTIVES

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On-site assistance in the planning and production trial phases of Primary capacity increases in Bergen op Zoom, to meet forecasted production requirements.

STATUS

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On April 6, a meeting was held in BOZ to discuss the concept of processing a Marlboro blend (bright, burley, oriental, reconstituted tobaccos) through the Dickinson Direct Conditioning Cylinder of the independent ET line. The purpose of the trial was to determine the effectiveness of the DCC in conditioning the tobaccos compared to normal Primary processing through the vacuum conditioners, as well as the effect on the subjective quality of the cigarettes.

On-site assistance was provided during week 16, in developing the test design, including designation of processing parameters, detailing the sampling scheme, and assigning group responsibilities.

Also, during this week, a preliminary trial was attempted, to process reconstituted tobacco through the DCC. It was unsuccessful due to the inability of the slicer unit to properly slice the tobacco.

On May 11, the actual trial was conducted with two representatives of Process Development present. With the exception of the reconstituted tobaccos, the trial progressed smoothly. Again, there were significant problems slicing the recon, which were compensated for, only through the manual operation of the slicer unit. BOZ completed processing of the test and reference Marlboro blends without further difficulty.

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Cigarettes from the test were subjectively evaluated by Panel A. They stated, that for the test, "the taste is clean, open, and pleasant. It is somewhat softer than the reference as far as throat impact is concerned but overall, of very acceptable quality" (1).

In addition, in week 24, personnel from Process Development visited Comas to observe trials processing recon through their continuous conditioning system. This unit also had difficulty slicing the recon, but the problems appeared to be less severe than those encountered at BOZ.

PLANS

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Bergen op Zoom will issue a report detailing the results of the trial.

Continue to provide assistance to BOZ per the above objective.

REFERENCES

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(1) E. De Borst, Profs note, May 31, 1990, Panel A dcc test on ml/blend

S. Robin Wagner

RWA/vag/July 6, 1990
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